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FINANCE EXPERTS WITH V CORPS' 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION HELP REVOLUTIONIZE TIKRIT TREASURIES

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TIKRIT, Iraq – About 45 employees from treasuries throughout Salah Ad Din Province are undergoing training here with V Corps' 1st Infantry Division to streamline financial operations in the region.

Capt. Christopher B. Emery, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 106th Finance Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, recently paid a visit to the main treasury here to observe training the first-hand. The Treasury Automation Project is the brainchild of the 106th, and comes with a price tag of \$334,000. The funding for the project is derived not from coalition forces, but the Development Fund for Iraqi, money seized from Saddam Hussein's regime.

"Building a strong treasury is going to keep the violence down," said Emery. "The treasury is going to make sure each employee is being paid the correct amount and on time."

When the 106th first arrived in Tikrit, there were pay issues among some Iraqis.

"This project has enabled the Salah Ad Din treasury to be at the cutting edge," Emery said. "(It will allow the treasury) to be able to instantaneously affect treasury offices, budgets and civilian payrolls throughout this area. It's going to ensure the building blocks for (electronic funds transfer) are established in Iraq."

"EFT will be a huge step for this country," he said. "It is paramount."

Treasury employees are learning basic computer skills in accounting, cash management, forecasting and budgeting.

"When we first went out into the treasury, everything was handwritten; memos signed and hand delivered all throughout the province," Emery said. "Now, with the Internet, they are able to send budget and policy updates almost instantaneously."

